

**INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL
AND REGIONAL POLICY
(IMRP)
AT CENTRAL CT STATE
UNIVERSITY (CCSU)**

*Institute for Municipal
and Regional Policy*



ABOUT

Working for fair, effective and just public policy through applied research and community engagement, the IMRP utilizes the resources of CCSU students, staff and faculty to develop, shape and improve public policy on issues of municipal and regional concern. The IMRP accomplishes this through a variety of targeted approaches such as: public education and dialogue; published reports, articles and policy papers; pilot program design, implementation and oversight; and the facilitation of collaborations between the University, government, private organizations and the general community.

The IMRP aspires to be a respected and visible presence throughout the State of Connecticut, known for its ability to promote, develop and implement just and effective public policy. The IMRP adheres to non-partisan, evidence-based practices and conducts and disseminates its scientific research in accordance with strict, ethical standards.

The IMRP is responsive to social and community concerns by initiating projects addressing specific needs and interests of the general public and policymakers, as well as sponsoring conferences, forums, and professional trainings. Access to state-of-the-art technology and multi-media enhances the IMRP's ability to advance best practices to improve the quality of public policy in the State of Connecticut and nationwide.

IMRP PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

CONNECTICUT RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITION PROJECT (CTRP3)

First enacted in 1999, Connecticut's anti-racial profiling law, The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act (Public Act 99-198), prohibits any law enforcement agency from stopping, detaining, or searching any motorist when the stop is motivated solely by considerations of the race, color, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation of that individual (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 54-1l and 54-1m). During the 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions the Connecticut General Assembly made several changes to this law to create a system to address racial profiling concerns in Connecticut.

Police agencies collected traffic stop information based on requirements outlined in the original 1999 Alvin W. Penn law through September 30, 2013. As of October 1, 2013, police agencies were required to submit traffic stop data for analysis under the new methods outlined by the Office of Policy and Management. The Alvin W. Penn law gives authority to the Secretary of the Office of Police and Management if municipal police departments, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and other police departments fail to comply with the law to order appropriate penalties in the form of withholding of state funds.

The Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board was established in 2012 for the purposes of advising OPM with respect to the adoption of the standardized methods and guidelines outlined in the law. The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University was tasked to help oversee the design, evaluation, and management of the racial profiling study mandated by PA 12-74 and PA 13-75, "An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information." The IMRP has worked with the advisory board and all appropriate parties to enhance the collection and analysis of traffic stop data in Connecticut. Resources for the project are being made available through the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant, as administered through the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

The Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board and the project staff have been meeting since May 2012 in an effort to outline a plan to successfully implement PA 12-74 and PA 13-75. The focus of the early phase of the project was to better understand traffic stop data collection in other states. After an extensive review of best practices, working groups were developed and met monthly to discuss the different aspects of the project. The working groups included a (1) Data and System work group, (2) Public Awareness work group, and (3) Training work group. The full advisory board has met over 20 times and the working groups have met approximately 50 times.

The advisory board and IMRP also worked with law enforcement to implement a data collection system that is efficient, not overly burdensome to the police collecting it, and easy to deal with when it has been submitted. Police agencies in Connecticut are at various levels of sophistication and technology with respect to the ways in which they collect and report data. The project staff worked with the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to develop a system to universally collect traffic stop information and submit to CJIS electronically on a monthly basis.

The IMRP has developed and maintained a project website (www.ctrp3.org) that informs the public of the advisory board's activities, statewide informational forums, and related news items on racial profiling. The website includes minutes, agendas, press releases, and links to register for events and the website is updated weekly. In addition to the project website, the IMRP partnered with the Connecticut Data Collaborative to publish all traffic stop data on a quarterly basis. The information is available to the public to be downloaded in its original form or to view summary tables for easy consumption of the data. A full set of analytical tools will be available for more advanced users that are interested in data analysis.

Although much of the initial work of this project was to develop a standardized method for data collection and analysis, it has other components as well. Public awareness and education, effective training, a rigorous complaint process – all are tools within a diverse toolbox available to prevent the occurrence of racial profiling in traffic stops and enhance trust between communities and law enforcement.

The Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services division, sponsored a train-the-trainer program in Connecticut in February 2014 on “Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP).” The FIP program was established to train police officers and supervisors on fair and impartial policing by understanding both conscious and unconscious bias. This program will be offered to police agencies throughout the state over the next year. The project staff will also work with the Police Officers Standard and Training Council to incorporate the FIP curriculum into recruit training.

Lastly, a major component of addressing racial profiling in Connecticut is bringing law enforcement officials and community members together to discuss relationships between police and the community. The project staff has conducted several public forums throughout the state to bring these groups together and will continue these dialogues into the foreseeable future. They serve as an important tool to inform the public of their rights and the role of law enforcement in serving their communities.

The first analysis of CT traffic stop data as per the revised Alvin W. Penn Act will be presented to the legislature on April 7, 2015. It will provide the most comprehensive analysis of traffic stop data for potential bias to date as compared with any other jurisdiction in the country.

Project site: www.ctrp3.org

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission (CSC) was established within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative purposes only as a permanent sentencing commission under Public Act 10-129 to review on an ongoing basis criminal justice and sentencing policies and laws of this state. The Commission is chaired by Justice David Borden and vice -chaired by OPM Under Secretary Mike Lawlor. Andrew J. Clark is the Acting Executive Director.

The mission of the commission shall be to review the existing criminal sentencing structure in the state and any proposed changes thereto, including existing statutes, proposed criminal justice legislation and existing and proposed sentencing policies and practices and make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly and appropriate criminal justice agencies. In fulfilling its mission, the commission shall recognize that: (1) The primary purpose of sentencing in the state is to enhance public safety while holding the offender accountable to the community, (2) sentencing should reflect the seriousness of the offense and be proportional to the harm to victims and the community, using the most appropriate sanctions available, including incarceration, community punishment and supervision, (3) sentencing should have as an overriding goal the reduction of criminal activity, the imposition of just punishment and the provision of meaningful and effective rehabilitation and reintegration of the offender, and (4) sentences should be fair, just and equitable while promoting respect for the law.

Commission site: www.ct.gov/opm/csc

RESULTS FIRST

The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative (Results First) works with jurisdictions to implement an innovative evidence-based policymaking approach and cost-benefit analysis model that helps them invest in policies and programs that are proven to work in order to make policy decisions based on probable outcomes and return on investment. It is intended to help states and selected counties identify opportunities to effectively invest limited resources to produce better outcomes and substantial long-term savings.

Results First employs a sophisticated econometric model to analyze the costs and benefits of evidence-based programs across a variety of social policy areas. The model, originally developed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), applies the best available national rigorous research on program effectiveness to predict the programmatic and fiscal outcomes of evidence-based programs in Connecticut, based on our unique population characteristics and the costs to provide these programs in the state. By calculating the long-term return on investment for multiple programs through the same lens, it produces results that policymakers can use in planning and budgeting decisions.

Results First currently offers technical assistance to 16 states and four California counties to help them customize and implement jurisdiction-specific versions of the model and related tools and use the results to help inform policy and budget deliberations. Policy areas in which states are now working include (1) adult criminal justice (16 states); (2) juvenile justice (five states), (3) child welfare (three states), (4) education (two states), and (5) substance abuse and mental health (one state).

Connecticut became an early participant in the Results First Initiative in March 2011 when Governor Dannel Malloy and legislative leaders submitted formal letters of support to Results First.

In 2013, the General Assembly included up to \$150,000 in the FY 14-15 budget act, An Act Concerning Expenditures and Revenue for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 (PA 13-184, Section 42) for a grant to the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) to assist in the “development of the Connecticut specific model within the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.”

The budget “implementer,” An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government (PA 13-247, Section 42) (see Appendix A), established a Results First Policy Oversight Committee (RFPOC) to provide advice on the development and implementation of the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative cost-benefit analysis model. The committee's overall goal is to promote cost-effective state policies and programs.

Public Act 13-247 also required evaluations of domestic violence treatment programs funded by the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division (CSSD) and the Department of Correction (DOC) for family violence offenders. The studies were required to “consider findings from the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative's cost-benefit analysis model with respect to such programs.” After conducting these assessments, the agencies had to determine whether any program changes should be implemented to improve their cost-effectiveness.

CT Results First site: www.resultsfirstct.org

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION: NEW HAVEN

In both FY14 and FY15 the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) received grants from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) through funds set aside by Senator Toni Harp, Rep Gary Winfield and Rep. Juan Candelaria to help address youth violence in the City of New Haven. As part of the grant, the IMRP awarded funds through a Memorandum of Agreement and Personal Service Agreement, respectively, to two sub-grantees, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN).

Reducing Youth Violence by Institutionalizing Nonviolence in the City of New Haven

The long-term (5-10 years) goal of this initiative is to reduce violent crime among youth in the city of New Haven by creating healthier and safer environments through the teaching and application of Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation.

This plan is being implemented by the CTCN in collaboration with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) and Southern Connecticut State University through a grant awarded from the Connecticut General Assembly. Other key community organization partners include The New Haven Family Alliance (NHFA), Saint Martin de Porres Academy (SMDP), and Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology (CONNCAT).

CTCN's trainings are based upon The Nonviolence Briefing Booklet: A 2--- Day Introductory Workshop to Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation (LaFayette and Jehnsen, 2007). As its name implies, the Two--- Day Core Introduction serves to introduce people to Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation. Participants learn about Dr. Martin Luther King's philosophy and the practice of nonviolence. Due to its short time frame, the two-day workshop is not expected to result in major attitudinal or behavioral shifts.

Those adults who are drawn to the teachings of Kingian Nonviolence are encouraged to sign up for the more intensive Level-I Certification training, which is expected to lead to personal transformation and to build nonviolence leadership capacity. Children and youth receive more intensive training through CTCN's ThinKING Nonviolence Leadership Academy.

New Haven After School Youth Violence Prevention Program

In January 2014, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) was awarded a grant to implement an after school violence prevention program in Hill Central School, a K-8 school which is part of New Haven Public Schools District (NPHS). The program was to be aimed at grades 6-8, but was adapted to include the fifth grade as well. The funding was provided from the Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University and has been continued through a grant awarded in October 2014.

The long term goal of this program is to reduce the number of violent incidents, both in school and in the community. The program intends to accomplish this goal through an after school program. There are two ways that this program will work to reduce violence among youth. First, the program seeks to offer students the opportunities to develop skills in various arts, e.g., music, painting, drama, and sports, competitive and non- competitive during a critical time during the day. Using new enrichment opportunities will open the students up to new possibilities for their lives, both in finding meaningful ways to spend leisure time and possibly identifying potential careers by finding unknown talents within themselves. Keeping young students occupied during the after-school hours has been shown to reduce many at-risk behaviors and their associated consequences, including substance use, sexual behaviors, and violence behaviors.

The second way this program will accomplish this goal of reducing violence is by providing students

with access to mentoring role models, which are the on-site program staff. Hiring college and post-college individuals to work as counselors and program directors in the after school program offers the students access to adults who can have a significant impact in their lives. Finding counselors and staff with similar backgrounds allows the youth to see all the future possibilities they can have by working hard in school and avoiding consequences from poor decision making. Making these adult connections is critical for at-risk youth and has been shown to be effective for long term academic success.

The program was also designed in a manner that encourages participation through the reduction of traditional barriers to program involvement. The program operates on the school site five days a week, beginning right at dismissal. There is after school bussing provided for students so that they may become involved and still have a safe method of transportation home; this is even more critical when working with families that may not have transportation access.

In order to expose students to new enrichment activities, the program contracted with a number of professional artists, musicians, and athletes to run the program. It was important to include many active activities, as students have been sitting in classes all day and providing time to exercise and express energy is important at this age. New sports were introduced, such as rugby and two styles of dancing. Many individuals from across Southern's network were brought in as collaborative partners to provide important services.

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS INITIATIVE

Since FY08, the Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University has been receiving annual funding from the Connecticut General Assembly to administer competitive grants for providing positive interventions for at-risk youth whose parent(s) and/or family members have been incarcerated. The IMRP continually seeks to gain an additional understanding of these children and their service-needs through research, evaluation and outreach activities. As such, the IMRP, in collaboration with several faculty members from Board of Regents' major public Universities, as well as other Universities, is evaluating the effectiveness of direct care services in alleviating negative responses to parental incarceration and improving the positive attributes of CIP. The mission for the CIP Initiative is to improve the quality of supports for children with incarcerated parents by using the various data and knowledge it gains to inform public policy and practice.

CIP INITIATIVE'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In May of 2014, the CIP Initiative instated seven Guiding Principles. They were developed from careful analysis of the Initiative's funded programs, knowledge gained through review of what is being done nationally, and frequent communication with experts in the field. The IMRP intends to consider these principles as the Initiative continues to expand its work.

- I. Practices should be designed specifically with CIP needs in mind
- II. Include CIP and their families in the process of program development, implementation, and evaluation
- III. The relationship between the child and the incarcerated parent should be supported
- IV. Programs should reach children and families to get "self-referrals"
- V. Stigma and isolation associated with incarceration should be reduced
- VI. Emphasis on connections, collaborations and coordination among agencies and community partners
- VII. Evaluation and accurate data are critical for identifying evidence-supported practices

Initiative site: www.ctcip.org

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System Commission

The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System was created by the Connecticut General Assembly on October 1, 2000 through Public Act 00-154. The Commission is a permanent body chaired by the Chief Court Administrator or his/her designee. CT Supreme Court Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. is the current chairperson for the Commission, whose members began meeting September 4, 2000 and have met bi-monthly thereafter. The Commission's work is directed through a Steering Committee composed of Commission members which meets regularly to set the agenda for the full Commission meetings.

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Purchasing Services Office, released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on August 28, 2007. The duties of the Consultant, as outlined within the RFP, were to provide technical and administrative assistance to the Commission. Several proposals were submitted by individuals as well as agencies. Proposals were reviewed by a team of Commission members who, after lengthy discussion and consideration, chose the Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to act as Consultant to the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System.

CT Reentry Roundtable Collaborative

This collaborative represents a collection of individual, locally based roundtables that each began out of a recognized need for more intensive efforts to increase successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into their local communities upon release. Since their inception, CT's Reentry Roundtables have been working diligently to identify and address common needs and gaps in services for local residents returning from the state's correctional facilities. To date, the roundtables are from Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Windham, Waterbury and New London; towns which represent more than 46% of the current prison population. The oldest roundtable is that of Bridgeport, which originated nearly four years ago. Each roundtable is a grassroots effort, and no entity receives any state money specifically designated to support these activities.

The IMRP is currently assisting in the coordination and oversight of the collaborative.

Release News

Release News (www.releasenews.org) is a CCSU student-run publication that aims to educate and engage the general public on systemic issues regarding criminal justice, incarceration, and reentry – the people affected by the criminal justice system and the people who serve them on both a statewide and national scale. The goal of *Release* is to put a human face on the criminal justice system through a bimonthly online publication of narrative nonfiction pieces of varying styles such as profiles, cultural spotlights, investigative reports, and information graphics.